

On the Genus *Dolichomyia*, with the Description of a New Species from Colorado.

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The genus *Dolichomyia* was described rather incompletely by Wiedemann,* but, so far as I can learn, has not been recognized since except by Schiner,† who described a new species of it from Chile. Even Macquart and Bigot have failed to say anything about it, and Loew‡ refers to it as a genus of doubtful relationships. The following species, therefore, makes a very interesting addition to the North American Bombyliid fauna.

Dolichomyia gracilis, n. sp.

Male. Eyes broadly contiguous, leaving a small, silvery white triangle below. Antennæ black, the first two joints somewhat red; first joint a little more than a half of the length of the third; second joint about as long as broad; third gently tapering from near the base. The exceedingly short face silvery white. Proboscis black, twice the length of the head and antennæ together, its terminal labella small and not at all curved; palpi black, very slender, and lying close by the proboscis, shorter than the antennæ. Mesonotum shining black, with a geminate whitish pollinose stripe in the middle; the humeri, a small spot on the post alar callosities, and another at the base of the wings yellow; pleuræ whitish pollinose. Abdomen very slender and long, cylindrical, not enlarged at the extremity, composed of eight segments besides the small hypopygium; the segments dark brown in front and reddish or yellowish behind, the brown becoming greater in extent posteriorly; on the side of each posterior margin, a small, silver-white spot. Legs yellow, the distal portion of the hind tibiæ, and all the tarsi, brown, or brownish, the brown of the tarsi becoming more intense or blackish distally; hind tibiæ and tarsi with spinulæ. Wings hyaline; two or three submarginal cells present; posterior cross-vein situated near the middle of the wing, gently sinuous and nearly parallel with the costa. Knob of halteres large, dark brown or black. Length 9-11 millim.

*Aus. Zw. Ins. ii.

†Reise der Novara, Dipt. 134.

‡Diptf. Suedafrikas, 175.

Female. Front narrow above, the eyes separated by the ocellar tubercle; deep black, silvery white near the antennæ and with a white spot near the middle. Abdomen less slender.

Three specimens, Colorado, Estes Park, Prof. F. H. Snow.

This genus is related to *Systropus*, yet is very distinct. Schiner did not seem to grasp the true differences, though he insisted there were important ones. *Systropus* has, as is known, either two or three submarginal cells. The four species known to me all have two, so that I cannot say but that there are other differences between those with and those without the third. Loew, however, did not deem the character sufficient to separate the species. Schiner takes him to task, and asserts that he had confounded two genera, but in this I think that he was unjust. He was disposed to believe that the character was the decisive one between *Dolichomyia* and *Systropus*, but in this he was in error; the character has not even a specific importance as the specimens of the above described species conclusively show. The real differences between the two genera are as follows:

Eyes of female dichoptic in *Dolichomyia*; antennæ shorter than the head; thorax less convex above; abdomen cylindrical and not at all thickened at the extremity.

It has only been recently shown that the eyes of *Systropus* are holoptic in both sexes,* one of the very few forms among diptera in which such is the case. This is sufficient evidence that Loew had never seen *Dolichomyia* in nature, for he was the first to suspect that the eyes of the female of *Systropus* are contiguous. There are, then, but three species of *Dolichomyia* known, *D. nigra* Wied. from Columbia, *D. detecta* Schiner from Chile, and the one above described, which is closely allied to *D. nigra*.

Coquillett, in his most recent paper on the genera of *Bombyliidæ*,* rejects several genera with three submarginal cells, but, to be consistent, he should have rejected his own, based chiefly upon that very character. One may expect to find that *Rhabdopselaphus* Bigot, and *Triplasius* Loew (a North American genus which Coquillett seems to have entirely overlooked) are inconstant in this particular, and consequently untenable. But, although I have made no particular study of the genera of the *Bombyliidæ*, I do not feel so sure that Coquillett will be generally followed in his rejection of Osten Sacken's genera. Osten Sacken has made an especial study of the *Bombyliidæ*, and his appreciation of generic characters is altogether too acute to be lightly disregarded, certainly not without giving proof. It is prob-

*Osten Sacken.

+Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., xxi. 89.

ably true, as Coquillett says, that *Dipalta*, *Stonyx* and *Isopenthes* are insufficiently distinguishable from *Anthrax* by the presence of the third submarginal cell, but Coquillett wholly disregards the differences from each other, which are not at all affected by this character. That *Dipalta* is identical with *Diplocampta* Schiner seems more probable.

Coquillett seems to have been totally in error in his conception of the genus *Spogostylum*. There are three submarginal cells present in the type, as figured and described, but the third submarginal is *not* formed by the division of the outer submarginal, or, as Coquillett expresses it, by the anterior branch of the third vein having a cross-vein connecting it with the third vein. Here is another of those genera based upon the presence of a third submarginal cell, and which most probably is an inconstant character. It is of interest to note that Schiner considered* *Spogostylum* and *Argyromæba* synonymous. "Bei einem Stücke der *Argyromæba poecilophora* n. sp. erweitert sich der Aderanhang an der Basis der Cubitalgabel bis zur Radialader, es sind also, freilich nur auf einem Flügel, drei Cubitalzellen wie bei *Exoprosopa* vorhanden, was mich zu der Vermuthung führt, dass Macquart's Gattung *Spogostylum* mit der Gattung identisch sein dürfte." I have seen the same peculiarity in *Argyromæba*, and have no more faith in the character here than elsewhere.

*Reise der Novara. Dipt., 129. note.